

The background of the slide is a grayscale photograph of a park-like setting. A paved path leads into the distance, flanked by trees. In the middle ground, several historical cannons on wooden wheels are displayed on the grass. The text is overlaid on this image.

Chickamauga Traffic Impact Study and Subarea Transportation Plan Public Open House Meeting

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

5 to 7 PM

Constitution Hall – Fort Oglethorpe

Study Overview - Purpose

- **Develop transportation strategies that eliminate or minimize adverse impacts of increased traffic volumes on the Chickamauga Battlefield and surrounding communities**
- **Provide information and strategies to assist surrounding communities and regional planning partners to respond to future growth**



Public Outreach Activities

- Newsletters
- Website
- Two public meetings in July and December 2003
- Coordination with Stakeholder Participation Panel
- Environmental Justice outreach



Area Traffic and Travel Patterns

- US 27 relocation has changed travel patterns in the study area
- Traffic has decreased on LaFayette Road through the Battlefield from 13,200 vehicles per day in 2000 to 4,400 in 2003
- Roadside interview indicated over 80 percent of trips entering Chickamauga Battlefield are destined for locations outside of the Park



Traffic Impact Area Issues

- East-west mobility needs exist, especially maintaining mobility on SR 2/Battlefield Parkway
- North-south mobility and accessibility east of Chickamauga Battlefield needs improvement
- Connections between Chickamauga Battlefield resources and surrounding area resources could be improved



Traffic Impact Area Future Volumes

2025 Long Range Transportation Plan No-Build

Roadway	<u>Two-way Daily Traffic Volumes</u>	
	2003 Count	2025 LRTP Volume
US 27 relocation	17,500	22,500
McFarland Gap Road	3,400	7,300
Reeds Bridge Road	4,100	10,500
LaFayette Rd. (north of Park)	7,600	9,600
LaFayette Rd. (south of Park)	4,400	4,400



Traffic Impact Area Travel Times

- Field tests show a shorter travel time using US 27 relocation versus LaFayette Road through the Battlefield, even during peak period
- Future computerized 2025 transportation model shows no time advantage in using LaFayette Road through the Battlefield



Traffic Impact Area Findings

- **US 27 relocation has improved north-south mobility west of the Chickamauga Battlefield**
- **Traffic operations improvements are needed**
- **Economic development is important**
- **Safety concerns exist at select locations**
- **Capacity improvements are needed**



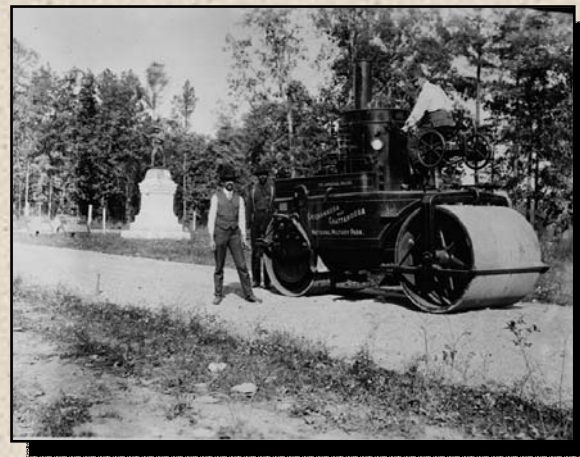
Battlefield Subarea Context

Historical Significance

- Site of the 1863 Battle of Chickamauga
- Nation's first National Military Park (1890)

CCNMP Purpose

- To preserve the significant resources of the Civil War campaigns and battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga and to educate the public about the events memorialized



Battlefield Subarea Evaluation

Park Road Sensitivity Evaluation Factors

- Association with historic period
- Interpretive value
- Historic integrity
- Auto tour route
- Contribution to positive visitor experience



Battlefield Subarea Roads

- Park roads evaluated to determine level of sensitivity: high, moderate or low
- Out of approximately 28 miles of Park roads
 - 66% high sensitivity
 - 20% moderate sensitivity
 - 14% low sensitivity
- High sensitivity roads include:
 - LaFayette Road
 - Reed's Bridge Road
 - Alexander's Bridge Road
 - Brotherton Road



Battlefield Subarea Issues

- Development adjacent to Battlefield adds non-Park traffic to Park roads and contributes to degradation of historic view sheds and cultural landscape
- Conflict of purpose between visitor and non-visitor traffic going through the Park
- Pedestrians and bicyclists perceive unsafe surroundings because of fast moving traffic
- Commercial vehicles continue to use Park roadways



Battlefield Subarea Findings

- Maintaining quality visitor experience is important
- Given nature of travel patterns inside the Battlefield, there is too much traffic on LaFayette Road
- Vehicular speeds are an issue
- Tourism provides opportunity for economic development
- Traffic safety improved after US 27 relocation due to fewer vehicles on LaFayette Road
- Park roads have cultural and historic value



End of Presentation

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